

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

Claims 1-20 (canceled).

21 (Currently amended). A process comprising:

topically applying a finely divided powder onto a plurality of polystyrene beads, the finely divided powder comprising brominated compounds including a brominated alkane having ~~at least one~~ at least two substituent aromatic ~~group~~ groups;

pre-expanding the polystyrene beads with the topically applied brominated compounds and forming a molded pattern from the pre-expanded polystyrene beads;

forming a lost foam casting mold with the molded pattern; and

pouring molted metal into the lost foam casting mold and onto the molded pattern to depolymerize the polystyrene beads with the topically applied brominated compounds.

22 (currently amended). A process as set forth in claim 21 wherein one of the substituent aromatic ~~group~~ groups comprises a phenyl group.

23 (canceled).

24 (Currently amended). A process as set forth in ~~claim 23~~ claim 22 wherein each of the two substituent aromatic groups comprises a phenyl group.

25 (Original). A process as set forth in claim 21 wherein the brominated compounds include three substituent aromatic groups.

26 (Original). A process as set forth in claim 25 wherein each of the three substituent aromatic groups comprises a phenyl group.

27 (Original). A process as set forth in claim 21 wherein each of the brominated compounds comprises at least two bromine substituents.

28 (Original). A process as set forth in claim 21 wherein each of the brominated compounds comprises at least four bromine substituents.

29 (Original). A process as set forth in claim 21 wherein the brominated compounds are topically applied to the polystyrene beads in an amount ranging from 0.1-5 weight percent.

30 (Original). A process as set forth in claim 21 wherein the brominated compounds are topically applied to the polystyrene beads in an amount ranging from 0.1-2 weight percent.

31 (Original). A process as set forth in claim 21 wherein the brominated compounds comprise dibromodiphenylethane.

32 (Original). A process as set forth in claim 21 wherein the brominated compounds comprise 1,2-dibromo-1,2-diphenylethane.

33 (Original). A process as set forth in claim 21 wherein the brominated compounds comprise tetrabromodiphenylbutane.

34 (Original). A process as set forth in claim 21 wherein the brominated compounds comprise 1,2,3,4-tetrabromo-1,2-diphenylbutane.

35 (Original). A process as set forth in claim 21 wherein the brominated compounds comprise hexabromodiphenylhexane.

36 (Original). A process as set forth in claim 21 wherein the brominated compounds comprise 1,2,3,4,5,6-hexabromo-1,2-diphenylhexane.

Claims 37-52 (canceled).